

ORDINANCE
CITY OF NEW ORLEANS

CITY HALL: July 9, 2026

CALENDAR NO. 35,495

NO. _____ MAYOR COUNCIL SERIES

BY: COUNCILMEMBER KING (BY REQUEST)

AN ORDINANCE to ordain and establish Section 34-3.1 of the Code of the City of New Orleans to impose a Carnival Gap Adjustment for Parades Fee (“GAP Fee”), to provide relative to the collection and use of said fee, and otherwise to provide with respect thereto.

SECTION 1. THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW ORLEANS HEREBY ORDAINS, That the Code of the City of New Orleans, Louisiana is amended to add Section 34-3.1 which shall read as follows:

“Chapter 34 – CARNIVAL, MARDI GRAS

* * *

ARTICLE II. – PARADE PERMITS

* * *

Sec. 34-3.1. – Carnival Gap Adjustment for Parades Fee.

(a) Each carnival organization that stages a carnival parade or truck parade permitted pursuant to this article shall pay, in addition to any other fee imposed by this code, an annual Carnival Gap Adjustment for Parades Fee (“GAP Fee”) to help offset the significant costs incurred by the city in ensuring public safety, traffic control, emergency preparedness, route management, sanitation coordination, barricade operations, permitting administration, and other related municipal services.

- (b) The GAP Fee assessed to each carnival organization shall be \$850.00 for each for each float, truck float, and rider-carrying mini-float that participates in the payor's parade; provided, however, that the total GAP Fee due from any one parading organization for a carnival season shall not exceed \$45,000.00.
- (c) The proceeds of the GAP Fee shall be deposited into a dedicated account and used exclusively to fund public safety, traffic control, emergency preparedness, route management, sanitation coordination, barricade operations, permitting administration, and other related municipal services related to the carnival season.
- (d) The GAP Fee shall be paid not later than April 30th following the parade date each year. The carnival organization shall submit a sworn attestation, on a form to be provided by the city, certifying the accuracy of the count on which the fee payment is calculated.
- (e) Any incumbent carnival organization may pre-pay the GAP Fee for the next carnival parade season beginning on September 1st. Prepayments shall be based on the number of pull units, truck floats, and rider-carrying minifloats participating in the carnival organization's most recent carnival parade and shall be accompanied by a sworn attestation from the krewe captain certifying the accuracy of the estimate upon which the fee payment is calculated. Prepayment remitted to the city pursuant to this section may be eligible for a discount of not greater than five percent of the GAP Fee due. In the event the actual count would cause the safety fee to exceed the pre-payment amount by more than five percent (excluding the pre-payment discount), the carnival organization shall recalculate the fee and remit the difference to the city not later than April 30th following the occurrence of the parade.

- 36 (f) Any carnival organization that fails to timely remit payment for the GAP Fee or materially
37 misrepresents information in calculating the fee payment may be prohibited from obtaining
38 a parade permit for the subsequent carnival season.
- 39 (g) If a parade is canceled in its entirety and cannot be rescheduled, and such cancellation is due
40 to a reason unrelated to the conduct of the carnival organization or its members, the GAP
41 Fee shall be waived and any prepaid fee refunded to the carnival organization not later than
42 60 days after the date of the cancellation.”

ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW ORLEANS_____

PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL

DELIVERED TO THE MAYOR ON _____

APPROVED:

DISAPPROVED: _____

MAYOR

RETURNED BY THE MAYOR ON _____ **AT** _____

CLERK OF COUNCIL

ROLL CALL VOTE:

YEAS:

NAYS:

ABSENT:

RECUSED:

Calendar No. _____ (Rev) _____
(Exp) _____

Name Chuck Toney Ext. 8944

Person responsible for routing

**CHECK SHEET TO BE USED FOR
CLEARING ORDINANCES, MOTIONS, AND RESOLUTIONS
BEFORE SUBMISSION TO COUNCIL CLERK**

The originating agency shall attach a copy of each proposed ordinance, motion, or resolution to the check sheet for processing in the sequence indicated after preparing a synopsis. The detailed memorandum of explanation shall also be attached to this check sheet.

SYNOPSIS OF DOCUMENT:

Establishes GAP Fee: \$850/unit, capped at \$45,000 per krewe, to fund Carnival parade operations.

1. Chuck Toney by Request of CAO's Office.

Department Head

2. Melissa Quigley

Department of Law

3. 
Chief Administrative Officer

Chuck Toney/s/

4.
Director of Council Relations

5.
Initials of Sponsoring Council Member

COUNCIL ACTION

Council Members Present: _____

Absent: _____

AMENDMENTS:

FINAL ADOPTION:

MOVED: _____

2ND: _____

YEAS: _____

NAYS: _____

ABSENT: _____

RECUSED: _____

7. _____

Reviewed by the Chief Administrative Officer after adoption by the City Council and prior to the Mayor's signature.



LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY

TO ACCOMPANY ORDINANCES

BEFORE SUBMISSION TO CLERK OF COUNCIL

Requesting Department or Agency: Office of the Mayor

Name of Contact Person: Chuck Toney

Telephone Number: (504) 658-4944

Email Address: Charles.Toney@nola.gov

Initials of Sponsoring Councilmember(s): FK/LH/EG

DETAILED SYNOPSIS OF THE ORDINANCE

Please generally describe the purpose, intent, and effect of the proposed ordinance.

This ordinance establishes a Carnival Gap Adjustment for Parades Fee, referred to as the GAP Fee, by adding Section 34-3.1 to Chapter 34, Article II of the Code of the City of New Orleans. The ordinance applies to carnival organizations that stage carnival parades or truck parades permitted under Chapter 34. The GAP Fee is intended to help close the gap between the City's Carnival-season parade operational costs and the amount currently recovered through existing Mardi Gras parade permit fees.

The fee would be assessed at \$850 per chargeable unit participating in the parade, including pull units, truck floats, rider-carrying minifloats, tandem float sections, theme floats, and other rider-carrying parade units identified in parade permit applications, line-up materials, electrical float permits, or other City-maintained parade documents. The total GAP Fee due from any one parading organization would be capped at \$45,000 per Carnival season.

The ordinance provides for collection, deposit, permitted use, sworn attestation of chargeable-unit counts, prepayment, reconciliation, waiver, refund, and enforcement procedures. Proceeds would be deposited into a dedicated account or other fund/accounting structure approved by the Department of Finance and used exclusively for Carnival-season parade operations and related municipal services.



LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY

If the Ordinance is to effectuate a contract, CEA, or other similar agreement (hereafter contract), please provide the following additional information.



If this section is not applicable, please check this box.

The parties involved:

N/A - this ordinance does not effectuate a contract, cooperative endeavor agreement, or similar agreement.

The obligations, expectations, and deliverables of the parties involved:

N/A.

Any fiscal implications for the City with the contract:

N/A for contract purposes. The ordinance separately creates a fee expected to generate revenue for Carnival-season operations.

The public purpose and need for the contract:

N/A.

The duration of the contract:

N/A.



LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY

If the Ordinance is to effectuate an amendment to the Codes of the City of New Orleans, please provide the following additional information.



If this section is not applicable, please check this box.

The existing provision(s) of the Code being proposed for amendment:

Chapter 34, Article II, Carnival and Mardi Gras parade permits; proposed new Section 34-3.1. Related framework: Section 34-3(b), existing pull-unit permit fee structure.

The general content/requirements of the existing Code provision:

Chapter 34, Article II regulates carnival and truck parade permits, including current permit fees based on the number of pull units used in the parade.

How the proposed ordinance will alter the existing Code provision(s):

Adds Section 34-3.1 to establish the GAP Fee. The fee is \$850 per chargeable unit, capped at \$45,000 per parading organization per Carnival season, with payment, attestation, reconciliation, refund/waiver, enforcement, and dedicated-use provisions.



Why these changes are needed:

Existing permit fees do not fully recover City Carnival operational costs. The GAP Fee helps close that gap with a capped fee.



REQUESTED ADOPTION DATE: TBD / next legally available meeting.

Reference: Council Rule 41 & City Code Section 2-813

ORDINANCE
CITY OF NEW ORLEANS

CITY HALL: JUNE 18, 2026

CALENDAR NO. XX,XXX

NO. _____ MAYOR COUNCIL SERIES

BY: COUNCILMEMBER KING (BY REQUEST)

AN ORDINANCE to ordain and establish Section 34-3.1 of the Code of the City of New Orleans to impose a Carnival Gap Adjustment for Parades Fee (“GAP Fee”), to provide relative to the collection and use of said fee, and otherwise to provide with respect thereto.

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Sec. 34-3.1. – Carnival Gap Adjustment for Parades Fee.

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(f) Any carnival organization that fails to timely remit payment for the GAP Fee or materially misrepresents information in calculating the fee payment may be fined an amount not to

38 exceed \$1,000 and may be prohibited from obtaining a parade permit for the subsequent
39 carnival season.

40 (g) If a parade is canceled in its entirety and cannot be rescheduled, and such cancellation is due
41 to a reason unrelated to the conduct of the carnival organization or its members, the GAP
42 Fee shall be waived and any prepaid fee refunded to the carnival organization not later than
43 60 days after the date of the cancellation.

44 (h) The fee established by this section shall remain in effect and shall be imposed only during
45 the 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, and 2031 carnival seasons.”

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PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL

DELIVERED TO THE MAYOR ON _____

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DISAPPROVED: _____

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RETURNED BY THE MAYOR ON _____ **AT** _____

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2. Melissa Quigley
Department of Law
3. 
Chief Administrative Officer
Chuck Toney/s/
4. _____
Director of Council Relations
5. _____
Initials of Sponsoring Council Member

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Absent: _____

AMENDMENTS:

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Requesting Department or Agency: _____

Name of Contact Person: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

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